bond rupture and production of nitrene and molecular nitrogen. The nitrogen that is released is in a vibrationally excited state, which may cause additional cellular injury.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel without prejudice claims 1-12, 14-23, and 31-39.

Please add the following new claims:

40. (NEW) A composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation of organic azides having the general formula

E----L----DYE----X-----N_3

wherein DYE is an aromatic or a heteroaromatic radical of cyanines; E is a hydrogen atom; L is selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_a-$, $-(CH_2)_bCONR^1-$, $-N(R^2)CO(CH_2)_c-$, $-OCO(CH_2)_d-$, $-(CH_2)_eCO_2-$, -OCONH-, $-OCO_2-$, -HNCONH-, -HNCSNH-, -HNNHCO-, $-OSO_2-$, $-NR^3(CH_2)_eCONR^4-$, $-CONR^5(CH_2)_fNR^6CO-$, and $-NR^7CO(CH_2)_gCONR^8-$; X is either a single bond or is selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_h-$, -OCO-, -HNCO-, $-(CH_2)_iCO-$, and $-(CH_2)_jOCO-$; R^1 to R^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, -OH, C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl, C1-C10 alkoxyl, C1-C10 alkoxyalkyl, $-SO_3H$, $-(CH_2)_kCO_2H$, and $-(CH_2)_lNR^9R^{10}$; R^9 and R^{10} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and a to l independently range from 0 to 10.

41. (NEW) A method of performing a phototherapeutic procedure which comprises the steps of:

(a) administering to a target tissue in an animal an effective amount of organic azide photosensitizer having the formula

E----L----DYE----X-----N_3

wherein DYE is an aromatic or a heteroaromatic radical of cyanines; E is a hydrogen atom; L is selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_a-$, $-(CH_2)_bCONR^1-$, $-N(R^2)CO(CH_2)_c-$, $-OCO(CH_2)_d-$, $-(CH_2)_eCO_2-$, -OCONH-, $-OCO_2-$, -HNCONH-, -HNCSNH-, -HNNHCO-, $-OSO_2-$, $-NR^3(CH_2)_eCONR^4-$, $-CONR^5(CH_2)_fNR^6CO-$, and $-NR^7CO(CH_2)_gCONR^8-$; X is either a single bond or is selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_h-$, -OCO-, -HNCO-, $-(CH_2)_iCO-$, and $-(CH_2)_jOCO-$; R^1 to R^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, -OH, C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl, C1-C10 alkoxyl, C1-C10 alkoxyalkyl, $-SO_3H$, $-(CH_2)_kCO_2H$, and $-(CH_2)_lNR^9R^{10}$; R^9 and R^{10} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C10 alkyl, C5-C10 aryl, and C1-C10 polyhydroxyalkyl; and a to l independently range from 0 to 10; and

(b) exposing said target tissues with the light of wavelength between 300 and 950 nm with sufficient power and fluence rate to cause necrosis or apoptosis of said target tissue.

Please amend the following claims:

Q9

13. (AMENDED) The method of claim 41 further comprising the step of allowing said photosensitizer to accumulate in said target tissue.

Q10

24. (AMENDED) The method of claim 41 wherein the effective amount of the organic azide photosensitizer administered to the target tissue is in a range of about 0.1 mg/kg body weight to about 500 mg/kg body weight.

Q11

26. (AMENDED) The method of claim 41 wherein the organic azide photosensitizer is parenterally administered to the target tissue in a formulation including the organic azide photosensitizer and materials selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutically acceptable buffers, emulsifiers, surfactants, and electrolytes.

28. (AMENDED) The method of claim 41 wherein the organic azide photosensitizer is enterally administered to the target tissue in a formulation including the organic azide photosensitizer and materials selected from the group consisting of buffers, surfactants, emulsifiers, and thixotropic agents.

Q12

29. (AMENDED) The method of claim 41 wherein the organic azide photosensitizer is topically administered to the target tissue in a formulation including the organic azide photosensitizer and materials selected from the group consisting of liquid excipients and semisolid excipients.

30. (AMENDED) The method of claim 41 wherein the organic azide photosensitizer is administered in a form selected from the group consisting of an aerosol spray, a cream, a gel, and a solution.